

PYRRHOPAPPUS TARAXACOIDES, A SYNONYM OF TARAXACUM FULVIPILLIS

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ABSTRACT

It is suggested that *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* DC. and *Taraxacum fulvipillis* Harv. are conspecific and that *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* is therefore not a disjunct South African species of an otherwise wholly American genus.

UITTREKSEL

PYRRHOPAPPUS TARAXACOIDES, 'N SINONIEM VIR TARAXACUM FULVIPILLIS

Dit word voorgestel dat *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* DC en *Taraxacum fulvipillis* Harv. konspesifiek is en dat *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* dus nie 'n disjunkte Suid-Afrikaanse soort van 'n andersinds volledig Amerikaanse soort is nie.

As a result of a systematic study of the genus *Pyrrhopappus* (Compositae, Cichorieae) (Northington, 1974), a curiosity concerning the status of *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* DC. was encountered. De Candolle (1838) described *P. taraxacoides* as a perennial species occurring in South Africa specifically in the Cape area, "ad Berg et Zwart Key" which is the type locality for this species collected by Drège. The remaining described taxa for this genus, however, are restricted to the southeast and southwest United States and parts of Mexico, thus, making the African species an extreme disjunct at best. An examination of microfilm of de Candolle's type specimen readily convinced me that it was not a *Pyrrhopappus*. Although this African species was treated as an excluded species in some North American treatments (Gray, 1888; Torrey & Gray, 1843; Benthams & Hooker, 1873), Harvey (1864) made no mention of the taxon in his treatment of the Compositae of South Africa. He did, however, describe *Taraxacum fulvipillis*, the type also from a Drège collection, from a locality near that of the type specimen of *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides*. His description includes "pappus tawny" which suggests a similarity to *Pyrrhopappus*. This coincidence in addition to the de Candolle description (and the microfilm of his type specimen) strongly suggest the possibility that *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* and *Taraxacum fulvipillis* are conspecific.

Drège (1844) lists in his book of collecting stations No. 24 as being "Zwischen Los-Tafelberg und Zwartkey" (the type locality for *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* DC.); however, there is nothing in his record of specimens listed there that could have been a *Pyrrhopappus* or *Taraxacum*. At station 27, however, which is only a few miles from 24, reference to a collection of *Hypochaeris* 6176 is made for the locality "Zwischen Los Tafelberg und Wilschutsberg." Harvey used this specimen, Drège 6176, as his type for *Taraxacum fulvipilliss*. If, as is suggested by Dr. Rourke (pers. comm.), Drège sent a collection of this plant (from station 27) to de Candolle with a collection label for the locality at station 24, both de Candolle and Harvey would have had specimens of the same material and simply described them in different genera. Apparently, such a clerical error on the part of Drège is not uncommon (Rourke, pers. comm.). This would then make de Candolle's *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* conspecific with Harvey's *Taraxacum fulvipilliss*. Attempts to obtain the type of *T. fulvipilliss* from Sonder's Herbarium in Stockholm (S) have so far proved unsuccessful; however, a comparison of this material with the DC. type on microfilm might not prove completely reliable anyway due to the obvious difficulties of such an effort.

Davy (1935) has suggested that *T. fulvipilliss* is conspecific with a south circum-polar species, *Taraxacum magellanicum* Comm., but whichever is the correct specific epithet, I feel certain the hitherto little-mentioned *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* is in truth conspecific with *Taraxacum fulvipilliss* and therefore not an unexplicable disjunct of *Pyrrhopappus*.

The synonymy of these two species would, then, be as follows: ***Taraxacum fulvipilliss*** Harv. Harv. & Sond. Fl. Cap. 3: 257 (1865). *Pyrrhopappus taraxacoides* DC. Prod. 7: 144 (1838).

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